



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
An Equal Opportunity Employer

DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Bill Richardson
Governor
Rick Homans
Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2008

CONTACT: David Harwell (505) 827-0313

Rio Rancho Couple Arraigned on Conspiracy, Fraud and State Tax Evasion Charges

BERNALILLO – Rio Rancho resident Billy Sanchez was arraigned before Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judge George Eichwald on Monday, September 22, 2008, on 1 count of conspiracy, 20 counts of fraud and 2 counts of tax evasion. Billy Sanchez waived the reading of the indictment and a plea of not guilty was entered by the court appointed attorney on behalf of Billy Sanchez. Judge Eichwald set a cash only bond at \$50,000. A pre-trial hearing was scheduled for November 20th, with the trial scheduled for January 9, 2009. "Our tax fraud division works hard to ensure everyone pays their fair share of taxes. Local communities depend on tax dollars for safe roads, good schools and public safety," commented TRD Secretary Rick Homans.

In separate indictments, Billy Sanchez and his ex-wife, Rosalie Trujillo, were charged on July 31, 2008 after an investigation conducted by the New Mexico Racing Commission, the Rio Rancho Police Department and the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department revealed that the couple had participated in an alleged fraudulent sales scheme of racehorses that they did not own.

Rosalie Trujillo was arraigned in August before Judge George Eichwald on 1 count of conspiracy, 20 counts of fraud and 3 counts of tax evasion. Trujillo waived the reading of the indictment and entered a plea of not guilty. Judge Eichwald released Trujillo to the custody of her mother, Sylvia Martinez, with a corporate surety bond set at \$25,000.

If convicted on all counts, Sanchez and Trujillo could each face more than sixty years in prison and over \$100,000 in fines.

The case is being prosecuted by District Attorney Lemuel Martinez's office of the Thirteenth Judicial District in Sandoval County. To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.